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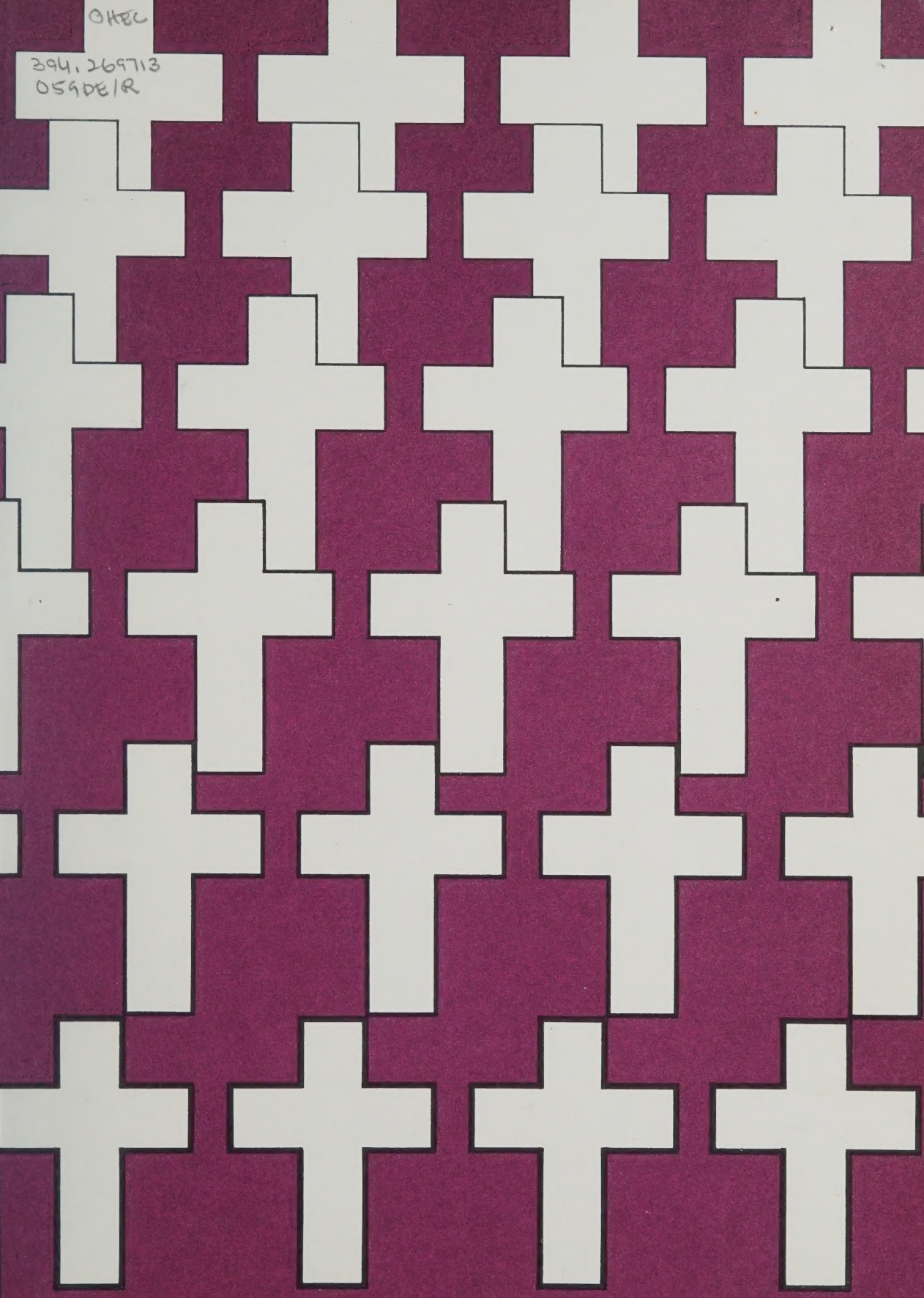


Remembrance Day
Nov. 11

Dear Principal:

It is important for students to feel part of their heritage and to honour those who have contributed to it. It is in recognition of this that the accompanying outline of a Service for Remembrance Day has been developed.

I hope that as principal you will take an active role in ensuring that a significant Remembrance Day program is developed for the students in your school. An assembly program is one way of helping students to gain a deeper understanding of Remembrance Day. You may find it helpful to establish a committee of teachers and students to plan and implement such a program. The accompanying outline is intended to assist such a committee in their work; it is intended to serve as a starting-point for the development of an assembly rather than as a format to be followed without modification.

A copy of the materials sent to every elementary school teacher in Ontario is also enclosed. I would especially like to draw your attention to the last section containing suggestions for classroom activities; these will help you in planning an assembly. A second copy of this brochure is enclosed for the attention of the school librarian.

I hope that through Remembrance Day observances this year our young people will pause and reflect on the past and look to the future with a sense of service and responsibility.

Cordially,

Tom Wells

Thomas L. Wells
Minister

An Outline of a Service for Remembrance Day

The following outline is provided to suggest a framework within which an assembly for Remembrance Day may be developed by a committee of teachers and students. The specific examples in this outline are included to indicate possible components and starting points in the process of developing a school assembly.

1 Processional...selection by school band, orchestra, or choir to set proper mood

2 O Canada

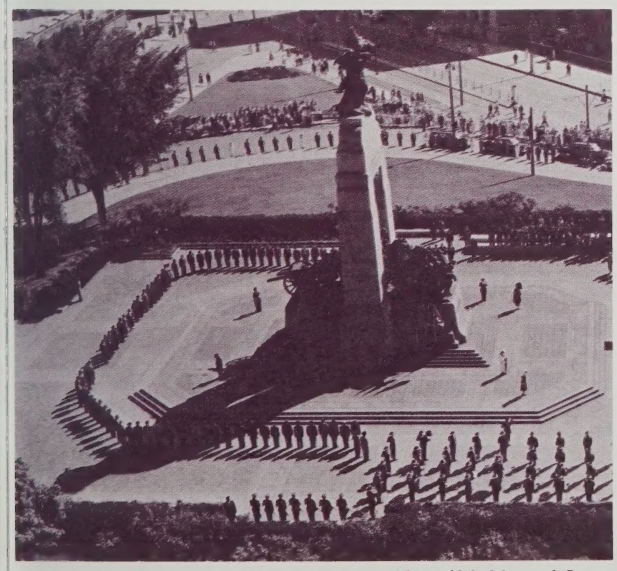
3 Appropriate hymn or song

St. Julien Memorial, Belgium

Remembrance Day

4 Prayer or Reading – e.g., Ecclesiasticus, Chapter XLIX (The Apocrypha)

Let us now praise famous men,
And our Fathers that begat us.
The Lord hath wrought great glory by them,
Through his great power from the beginning.
Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms,
Men renowned for their power,
Giving counsel by their understanding,
And declaring prophecies:
Leaders of the people by their counsels,
And by their knowledge of learning meet for the people,
Wise and eloquent in their instructions,
Such as found out musical tunes,
And recited verses in writing.
Rich men furnished with ability,
Living peaceably in their habitations.
All these were honoured in their generations,
And were the glory of their times.
There be of them, that have left a name behind them,
That their praises might be reported.
And some there be, which have no memorial,
Who are perished as though they had never been,
And are become as though they had never been born,
And their children after them.
But these were merciful men,
Whose righteousness hath not been forgotten.
With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance,
And their children are within the covenant.
Their seed stands fast,
And their children for their sakes.
Their seed shall remain for ever,
And their glory shall not be blotted out.
Their bodies are buried in peace,
But their name liveth for evermore.



National War Memorial, Ottawa

5 Sentences of Remembrance

Let us remember all those who laid the foundations of our land: the discoverers and explorers who led the way to the new continent; the pioneer settlers who made the first homes in this new land and raised their families in the face of every difficulty and danger; the men and women who cleared the farms, laid out the roads, and established schools and churches; who, advancing always into the wilderness, extended the areas of settlement and endured all the hardships which fall to the lot of those who lead the way for others to follow.

Let us remember all those who have served, through the years of our history, in the defence of our country, in Canada and in distant lands, on the high seas and in the air.

Let us remember particularly those who laid down their lives for their country, who died in far places, some of them having no memorial, and especially let us remember those who died in war (whose names are inscribed on the Honour Roll of this school).

6 Special presentation – for example, a film or slide presentation, a guest speaker, a play

7 A Message to Students from the Minister of Education, the Honourable Thomas L. Wells

Dear Students:

Today we pause to remember the valiant men and women who served our country in war. We pay homage to the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives so that we might enjoy the freedom we have in Canada – freedom from oppression and tyranny, freedom to work, to love, to speak, to preach, to write, to vote – each freedom worthy of our thanksgiving.

Remembrance Day. This is a day for reflection and for thanksgiving. It is a day set aside for thinking of those who made the supreme sacrifice for our country. One of the most moving acts is the two minutes of silence, when, wherever we may be, we bow our heads and remember those who gave up their lives in order to safeguard our great freedoms. It is a day that has been cherished through the years and has passed from one generation to another.

Each year a wreath is placed on the National War Memorial in Ottawa by a woman who has been chosen to represent all mothers who mourn for sons and daughters who died in the struggle for peace. During these moving moments all hearts are filled with pride thinking of the many Canadian men and women who resisted aggression by going where patriotic duty called so that we might enjoy this great land of ours and continue to maintain our precious freedom.

It is important for us to pay tribute to all those men and women who served – and are serving – on so many frontiers: they brought with them the living spirit of peace and a strong belief in the democratic processes for which they fought and which we must preserve.

Let us be thankful for the privilege of our citizenship, remembering that it grants equality to all those men and women – regardless of race, colour, and creed – who are proud to be called Canadians.

Let us, both young and old, live our lives in such a way as to keep our country great and free. Let us give thanks for the many blessings and opportunities we enjoy and rededicate ourselves to pursuing those ideals that lead to peace, understanding, mutual trust, equal opportunity, and shared responsibilities.

Cordially,

Tom Wells

Thomas L. Wells
Minister

8 Sentences of Thanksgiving

In This Remembrance Day Service –

Let us be thankful for the citizenship that is our privilege, remembering that it has been won at a great price and must be defended, and remembering that citizenship means equality for every race and colour and creed of all those who are proud to call themselves Canadians.

Let us be thankful for the great freedoms that we have inherited from the wise planning of those who have gone before us; for freedom of speech and religion, for freedom from want and fear, and for all that this means in the troubled world.

9 The Last Post, meditation, and Reveille

10 Two minutes silence

11 Dedication – appropriate song, hymn, or reading, such as:

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake.

St. Francis of Assisi

Remembering all those who have gone before, whose lives were devoted to the service of our country, and all the benefits and privileges that we enjoyed in this great land,

Let us all pledge ourselves to be worthy of our high citizenship, to be ready at all times to defend it, and to live all our lives in such a way as to keep our country great and free, respected and beloved throughout the world. May God help us and keep us in this intention.. Amen.

12 God Save The Queen.

Ministry of Education
Ontario

Hon. Thomas L. Wells
Minister of Education

Photographs courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ottawa, Canada

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